

year in future, and as near an approach to it in past years as can now be recovered. It seems high time that some attempt of the kind should be made on a systematic and regular plan, as the only probably effectual means of arriving at a knowledge of the laws which govern these mysterious phenomena, and the periods, if any, which they observe in their formation, and thence of elucidating the nature of the sun itself.

“No single observer, at a fixed locality, can, of course, with any amount of diligence, contribute more than a very fragmentary series of such observations; nor, considering the frequency of long-continued runs of cloudy weather extending over immense tracts of country, could even the united observations of all Europe avail to secure such a continuous series as there is a necessity of obtaining. If, however, it were to be made known to observers in every region of the globe, that a permanent establishment, such as the Astronomical Society, interested itself in the formation of such a collection, and had opened a *department in its archives for the reception and arrangement of such contributions from all quarters*, there can be little doubt that many individuals, resident in climates habitually serene, would be induced to make and contribute diurnal representations of the solar disc.

“Should the Astronomical Society think proper to issue any prospectus or notice, calling for such contributions, it would, of course, be desirable that the plan should be cast so as to secure a certain degree of uniformity in their execution, both as respects the hour or hours of the day, *when*, and the scale *on which*, they should be made. If made, for instance, at, or as nearly as possible at, noon, observations made on the same day in Europe, India, Australia, and America, would, in effect, furnish not merely a diurnal but a quarto-diurnal series, adding much to the interest of the whole. Moreover, the exceeding facility with which photographic processes are executed, and especially the short time which the *Talbotype* process occupies, makes their execution on a given scale, and with every requisite degree of precision, easily attainable.

“In the hope that such a collection may be set on foot, it is my intention, so soon as I can find leisure, to execute, and offer to the Society, a series of copies on a uniform scale, corresponding to Mr. Griesbach’s (that is to say, in which the disc of the sun shall be represented by a circle $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter), of all the drawings I possess of the solar spots.”

Eclipse of the Sun, April 15, 1847.

Capt. P. P. King, R.N. observed the beginning of this eclipse at Tahlee, Port Stephens, New South Wales, at $4^{\text{h}} 36^{\text{m}} 36^{\text{s}}.8$, mean time at the place.

“Magnitude of eclipse (proportion of observed part to whole disk) 0.616 on northern limb.

Latitude, S. $32^{\circ} 40'$

Longitude, E. $10^{\text{h}} 8^{\text{m}} 8^{\text{s}}$

The longitude is computed from this eclipse by the data of the *Nautical Almanac*: Mr. Woolhouse’s method.”

M. d'Arrest finds, from a comparison of the places of ϵ *Indi* in the catalogues of Lacaille, Brisbane, and Taylor, that this star has a remarkable proper motion.

		R. A.	Decl.
From 1750 to 1825		+ 6 ^h 02 ^m	—2 ^h 36 ^m
1825	1835	+ 13 ^h 21 ^m	—3 ^h 05 ^m

Professor Chevallier presented a working model of a machine for giving the time at places which are in sight of each other. A ball is let drop, as at Greenwich, Liverpool, &c.; but the motion is retarded and made nearly uniform by connecting it with a fly-wheel. There are horizontal rings attached to the staff at different heights, through which the ball drops; and the observer, being prepared, can estimate very nicely the moment at which upper and lower surfaces of the ball pass these rings.

Sweeping Ephemeris for the expected Comet of 1264 and 1556.

From Mr. Hind's Tables in the *Monthly Notice* for April 1847.

	P. P. Jan. 11.		P. P. Feb. 10.		P. P. March 11.	
	R.A.	N.P.D.	R.A.	N.P.D.	R.A.	N.P.D.
1847.	^h ^m	^o ' "	^h ^m	^o ' "	^h ^m	^o ' "
Nov. 22	13 38	100 13	12 37	100 17		
Dec. 2	14 24	101 44	13 7	101 42		
12	15 20	102 56	13 43	103 15	12 37	102 56
22	16 28	103 32	14 28	104 36	13 4	104 30
32	17 46	103 17	15 23	105 25	13 37	105 58

Mr. Cooper states that a star in Bessel's Zone 185, Weisse xx. 122, is not to be found in the heavens.

Capt. Jacob, at Poona, saw the companion of ν *Scorpii* double. The following measures were taken with a 5 foot telescope, power 152.

	Position.	Weight.	Distance.	Weight.
AB	336 ^o 4	41	40 ^h 53 ^m	25
BC	43 ^h 2	21	1 ^h 75 ^m	

The distance of BC is estimated : B = 7 mag., C = 8 mag.

The Astronomer Royal gave a brief account of the Observatory of Poulkova, which he has lately visited, and explained the nature of M. Struve's views on the *Milky Way* and the distance of the Fixed Stars, as set forth in his recent publication, *Etudes d'Astronomie Stellaire*, St. Petersburg, 1847. An abstract of this will probably appear in the ensuing *Notice*.

ERRATUM.

Vol. vii. p. 307, for sixth satellite of *Saturn*, read the most distant satellite.

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